

**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD  
OCTOBER 28, 2009 MINUTES**

The Human Relations Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in a Regular Human Relations Advisory Board Meeting October 28, 2009, 6:00 p.m. in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Benelli, Chair  
James May, Vice Chair  
Ana Cadillo  
Hong Chartrand  
Craig Cuillard  
Stacey Dillon  
Rory Gilbert  
Denise Heap  
Everette Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT

Renee Coelho

STAFF PRESENT

Mary Berumen  
Jennifer Hedges

GUESTS

Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh  
Shawn Dick  
Nancy Reynolds

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Ms. Benelli welcomed guests and new board members Ms. Hong Chartrand and Ms. Stacey Dillon. Ms. Benelli acknowledged Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh and welcomed him to the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes from the September 23, 2009, board meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Cuillard to approve the minutes. Mr. May seconded the motion with an addition to the title. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Items from Citizens Present.

Citizens present wished to speak regarding item number six (a) on the Human Relations Advisory Board agenda.

SUPPORT

Erica Keppler  
Pamela Anders  
Roger Webb

OPPOSE

4. Discuss and take action on the presentation by Vietnam Veteran, Shawn Dick.

Mr. Dick, wished to correct his title as being a Vietnam Era Air Veteran, who served in Panama and Central America during the Vietnam War. Mr. Dick gave a brief presentation regarding the different organizations that offer veteran support and to enlighten the board on the services these organizations provide. Mr. Dick informed the board that many veterans are returning from duty without expressing their traumas; these are the veterans who need help the most but who are the most overlooked.

Mr. Dick offered Web sites that offer assistants to veterans:

<http://www.nchv.org/>  
<https://www.cfda.gov/index?cck=1&au=&ck=>  
<http://www.hhs.gov/>  
<http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1>  
<http://www.carf.org/>  
<http://www.cass-az.org/>  
<http://www.usvetsinc.org/locations/>  
<http://www.phoenix.va.gov/>

Ms. Benelli suggested to the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team, that returning veterans be added as an emerging community.

5. Discuss and take action on the presentation by Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Celebration Committee President, Nancy Reynolds.

Ms. Reynolds gave a brief presentation on the background and history of the MLK Jr. Celebration Committee. Ms. Reynolds informed the board of the previous and upcoming fundraisers. She explained that the committee has restructured their efforts to focus on social justice. Some of their efforts include finding new sponsors and new committee members.

A new Web site will contain the January 2010 celebration events, dates and times. The Web site will also have information regarding parade registration. The following is the schedule of events:

- Candlelight Ceremony, January 15, 2010 – 7:00 PM
- Night of Tribute, January 16, 2010 – 6:00 PM
- MLK Breakfast, January 18, 2010 – 8:00 AM
- MLK Parade, January 18, 2010 – 11:00 AM
- MLK Festival, January 18, 2010 – 12:00 Noon

6. Hear an update, discuss and provide direction on items presented by the:

- a. Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team

Give an update on education and training on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues in the City of Mesa.

Ms. Heap made a motion at the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team meeting on October 19, 2009, that a non-traditional caring relationship round table discussion is scheduled to educate the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team, the Human Relations Advisory Board and the City of Mesa; be presented to the board for approval. Mr. Cuillard seconded the motion and put forth to the Human Relations Advisory Board.

The Human Relations Advisory Board passed the motion unanimously.

Give an update on the recognition of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.  
Mr. Cuillard made a motion at the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team meeting on October 19, 2009, to recognize the East Valley Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer's (LGBTQ's) for Change, for giving back to their community during their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meet and Greet on May 1, 2010. Ms. Heap seconded the motion and put forth to the Human Relations Advisory Board.

The Human Relations Advisory Board passed the motion unanimously.

Give an update on increasing outreach to the emerging communities located in the city of Mesa.

Ms. Gilbert informed the board that the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team will begin finding different communities to speak to the Human Relations Advisory Board. Ms. Gilbert also informed the board that the team will address what defines an emerging community at their next meeting.

- b. Ad Hoc Marketing Strategies Project Team

Give an update on the Human Relations Advisory Board Web page.

Ms. Benelli updated the board that progress still needs to be made on designing and/or updating a new Human Relations Advisory Board Web page.

c. Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities

Give an update on the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Arizona Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator Conference on October 1, 2009.

Ms. Berumen informed the board that the speakers included federal, state, and local agencies that have experience and firsthand knowledge of ADA issues and concerns affecting different levels of government and the non-profit sector.

Planning is beginning for next year's conference.

7. Mesa Police Department Report – Community Partnership Coordinator, Ms. Denise Traves.

a. Hear an update on hate and bias crimes in Mesa.

Ms. Traves was unable to attend, no report was given.

b. Hear an update from the Chief's Community Forums.

Ms. Traves was unable to attend, no report was given.

c. Hear an update on presentations and conferences.

Ms. Traves was unable to attend, no report was given.

8. Diversity Officer's Report:

a. Hear an update on the Diversity Office and Neighborhood Outreach Office activities.

Ms. Berumen gave a brief update on the community events the Diversity Office has attended including the:

- Building Strong Neighborhoods Initiatives on October 29, for District 3 and November 17, for District 4.
- Dia de Los Muertos Celebration on October 31 to November 1, at the Mesa Arts Center.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Dialogue & Friendship Dinner on November 10, hosted by the Foundation for Inter-Cultural Dialogue.
- Huhugam Ke Museum 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration and "Vaila" on November 14, sponsored by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

9. Discuss and take action on the 2009-2010 Chair and Vice Chair positions for the Human Relations Advisory Board.

Ms. Gilbert made a motion to keep Ms. Terry Benelli as Chair. Mr. Woods seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Ms. Gilbert made a motion to keep Mr. James May as Vice Chair. Mr. Woods seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

10. Report on conferences and/or meetings attended.

Ms. Gilbert reported on the Healing Racism Series held on October 15, 2009, at the Tempe City Council Chambers. The topic was Race and Health in America.

Mr. May reported on the Diversity Leadership Alliance (DLA) Annual Conference held on October 22, 2009. Mr. May informed the board of a break-out session entitled Yan-koloba, which encourages unity and sharing. The group activity was taught by Dr. Emmanuel Ngomsi. More information about the Diversity Leadership Alliance can be found at: <http://www.diversityleadershipalliance.org/>.

11. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- a. Discuss and take action on the proposed November 14, 2009 Human Relations Advisory Board Retreat date and time.

The board agreed that the November 14, 2009 retreat will be cancelled and moved to Saturday, January 9 or Saturday, January 23, 2010. Staff will survey the board and report at the next meeting.

Mr. May inquired if the public was welcome to attend and speak at the retreat? The public is welcome to attend the retreat. Generally the public has a chance to speak at the beginning of the meeting, during the agenda item; *Items from Citizens Present*.

Mr. May also inquired if the public can attend and be a part of any Human Relations Advisory Board Ad Hoc Project Team? The public is welcome to participate in any Ad Hoc Project Team. Mr. May thanked the audience for attending and asked if interested to become involved in the Ad Hoc Teams.

Ms. Berumen informed the audience about a vacancy on the board. If interested in the position, a application can be found at:

[http://citydoc.cityofmesa.org/citydoc1/groups/public/documents/meetings/mtg\\_citymeetin\\_gshomepage.asp](http://citydoc.cityofmesa.org/citydoc1/groups/public/documents/meetings/mtg_citymeetin_gshomepage.asp).

Mr. Cuillard asked that a presentation by Steven Isham, author of *Child and Family Advocacy: The Complete Guide to Child Advocacy and Education for Parents, Teachers, Advocates, and Social Workers*, be scheduled for the next meeting.

Ms Gilbert reported on the upcoming Healing Racism Series "The Relationship between Black and Brown." More information will be shared at the next meeting.

Ms. Benelli informed the board that board member Lisa Hudson has resigned from the Human Relations Advisory Board.

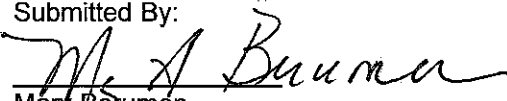
Ms. Benelli made a motion to cancel the November Human Relations Advisory Board meeting and move the December meeting to Wednesday, December 16, 2009. Ms. Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjourn

Ms. Benelli adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:02 p.m.

***The next regular meeting is on December 16, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.  
Lower Level, City Council Chambers.***

Submitted By:



Mary Berumen,  
Diversity Office Director